

THE VOLUNTEER

A NEWSLETTER FOR RCRV MEMBERS

February 2010
Volume 10, Issue 1

Rockwell Collins Retiree Volunteers

If you can dream it,
we can do it.

Mission

Rockwell Collins retirees connecting to identify and support volunteer needs in our community and beyond, while enriching the lives of the volunteers.

Officers

Jim Green – Chairman
Jim Spencer – Vice
Chairman
Barbara Hoffman – Secretary
Arlo Meyer - Treasurer

Committee Chairs

John McDonough –
Community Projects Team
Barbara Hoffman & Cliff Koop –
Recruiting/Retention
Chuck Wehage –
Communications
Angela Berns – Agency Liaison
Jim Klein – Data Base

Web Site

<http://rcrv.org>
e-mail: contact@rcrv.org

RCRV
927 N. Compton Drive
Hiawatha, Iowa 52233
319-393-9637 (voice mail)



RCRV Meetings

Community Projects Team

The Community Projects Team meets every Thursday at 10:00 in our office in the REACT Center where we discuss future and current projects. Service agency representatives submit new project requests on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month. You are always welcome at any of the meetings.

New Retirees Orientation

Informational meetings for new retirees or others interested in becoming active members of RCRV are held at 9 AM on the third Thursday of each month at the REACT Center (927 N. Compton Dr. in Hiawatha). Those of you interested in learning more about RCRV and the many volunteer opportunities we offer are encouraged to attend. ♦



Grant award winners Carol Luth from Vision in Motion, Myrt Bowers from Witwer Senior Center and Barbara Hoffman from RSVP of Jones County with RCRV members Rod Thorpe, Arlo Meyer and Jim Green

Rockwell Collins Retiree Volunteers award \$10,000 in grants

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (Sept. 8, 2009) - Rockwell Collins Retiree Volunteers (RCRV) has awarded grants totaling \$10,000 to Witwer Senior Center, Vision in Motion and RSVP of Jones County. The grants are funded by Rockwell Collins in support of the activities and partnerships RCRV has developed in the Cedar Rapids community.

Witwer Senior Center received \$5,000 for its nutrition program, which provides comprehensive services to Linn County seniors. The RCRV grant will supplement funding from other sources to provide up to 180,000 meals to seniors during the next year.

The Low Vision Services Program at Vision In Motion received a \$3,000 grant. The program assists individuals with visual impairments such as macular degeneration, glaucoma, cataracts and retinopathy, enabling them to remain as independent as possible and to maintain and improve their ability to perform daily activities. Funding obtained from the RCRV grant will be used to assist approximately 15 to 25 low-income older adults obtain needed assistive devices.

RSVP of Jones County's Elderly Outreach Transportation Program, which received a \$2,000 grant, serves *continued, page 2*

From page 1

older adults by providing a free transportation program to non-emergency medical appointments. The funding will be used for volunteer driver mileage reimbursement for transportation to non-emergency medical appointments outside of Jones County.

“The partnership between Rockwell Collins and RCRV has enabled these grant awards to the community entirely because of the growing volunteer hours by our group” said RCRV President Jim Green. “If you are a Rockwell Collins retiree and are volunteering in the community, we urge you to join us, so that we can continue to make good things happen in Linn and surrounding counties.”

Since it was formed in 1999, RCRV has grown from a handful of retirees to more than 225. In 2000, 37 volunteers logged 3,512 hours of community work. In 2004, the group put in more than 12,000 volunteer hours. That number increased to nearly 40,000 hours in 2008 and nearly 50,000 hours in 2009. The group is made up of retirees from long careers at Rockwell Collins in a broad range of specialties and skills. Rockwell Collins is a leading aviation electronics and communications company headquartered in Cedar Rapids. ♦

Holiday Scams

By Tom Brennom

(a little late but still good information, ed.)

The holidays not only bring joy, but they also bring out scammers, looking to take advantage of unsuspecting victims. We need to be on the outlook both at home, traveling as well as shopping. Internet fraud continues to grow, but we are targets everywhere. Beware of that “too good to be true” item!

Attorney General Tom Miller has issued a Consumer Advisory Bulletin “Consumer Tips for Holiday Shoppers” to help us become smart shoppers during this busy time of year. (See website

http://www.iowa.gov/government/ag/consumer_advisories/e_commerce_interne_t/consumer_tips.html for a copy)

His points include:

- **Buying Online:** Shop with reputable companies. Get details in advance on shipping, handling fees, refund and return policies, etc. *Use only secure websites* (https web addresses) and keep your anti-virus software updated. *Use credit cards* not check or debit cards so you can dispute the bill if necessary. Print out and keep records of your purchases.
- **Returns and “layaways”:** Be sure to know a store’s policy on returns and layaways before you make a purchase. There is *NO* state law that requires stores to give a refund, exchange, or credit for merchandise returned or taken off layaway – unless the store advertises that it accepts such returns and refunds. Also remember that Iowa’s 3-day right to cancel law only applies to door-to-door sales, or sales made away from a seller’s usual place of business.
- **Receipts:** *Always keep receipts* as most stores will not make refunds without them.
- **Mail orders:** If you order by mail, phone or on the internet, you have certain protections by Federal law including shipping. Don’t ever send cash, but use a credit card for your purchase.
- **Gift Cards and certificates:** Check the store’s terms before purchase. Also, buy a gift card from the counter, not from a rack in the store, incase someone has already written down the card’s number to be scammed later.

I also found some good tips at www.scambusters.org/. Holiday scams can be categorized into 7 groups.

- **Internet holiday scams:** The fastest growing online scam is setting up

bogus websites offering about anything you could want for Christmas at fantastic bargain prices. Be careful if a price seems too good to be true, especially from a website you are not familiar with. Don’t trust a website or name you don’t know and check them out before ordering. Look out for phony ads on auction websites or eGreeting card links, both of which can take you to a bogus website or download malware onto your computer. They also might use your credit card to buy items for themselves.

- **Charity-related holiday scams:** These can be door-to-door, at the mall, by phone or on the internet. They often include props to help you believe they are genuine. Simply don’t give unless you find the charity name yourself and donate directly. Beware of telephone solicitations (allowed by non-profits by law)...how can you possibly know the caller is who they say they are, and don’t give them your credit card number (if not legit, they can then use it).
- **Holiday scams in the mall:** Crowds mean rich rewards for pickpockets, after which they not only have your money but also your credit cards and personal information. They can take items from your shopping bags too. Keep your wallet inside a closed purse or a pocket with your hand on it. Return frequently with gifts to your car and lock them out of sight in the trunk. Keep your eyes open for charity collectors, people hovering around you as you pay, temporary stores or booths that may disappear after the Christmas rush. Also beware of offers of “cheap” items from someone who approaches you in the parking lot.
- **Holiday scams at the cash register:** Beware of being short-changed, either intentionally or unintentionally in the frantic atmosphere at the cash register this time of year. Have a general idea of the total cost of the items you plan to purchase. Don’t move away from the register until you have checked your change and receipt. Also, if using

continued page 3

From page 2

your credit card...don't forget to make sure you got it back!

- **Holiday scams in your home:** Bogus charity collectors may come knocking at your door. One of the newer scams is the "parcel-waiting" trick. You get a card at your door saying an unsuccessful attempt was made to deliver a package and you should call a particular number for more details. Since you might be expecting a parcel, you call the number and get a recorded message or music that keeps you on the line for a while. In fact, you are connected to a premium line or overseas line that charge exorbitant rates on your next phone bill (do not call any 809 area code numbers). You may be asked to provide personal information that could be used for identity theft, or give information that would let a thief know when you won't be home. Check the name of the company on the Internet or online lists of overseas phone codes. If the number is not a toll-free or local call, it may well be a scam. Don't give out personal details over the phone to someone you don't know, and don't tell them when you're going to be away from your home. Also watch for unexpected checks or packages that might make you a middle-person in a scam.
- **Holiday scams out and about:** The busy holiday season also has many special events...shows, sports, concerts, etc. so it is also an opportunity for bogus tickets or forgers. These often show up online, in the papers, or outside the venue itself. Ideally, only buy from venues or recognized agencies. Be especially careful when tickets are in short supply, and check out the venue for reports of forged or bogus sales. Remember, if it sounds too good to be true...you know the story!
- **Work-related holiday scams:** Many retailers are looking for extra staff to handle the Christmas rush. Some of us are also interested in a little extra cash this time of year. So beware of emails promising non-existent jobs,

for which, if you follow the ads up, you'll be asked to pay a commission or fee for the job. Even if the jobs do exist, you may be conned into working for nothing, with the promise of a generous payment at the end, which never comes. Never pay for a job. Also look out for bogus work-at-home jobs and providing your personal details to someone you don't know. (see http://www.state.ia.us/government/a/g/consumer_advisories/e_commerce_internet/warning_work.html for more on work-at-home schemes)

Finally order a **FREE** copy of your credit report if you haven't done so in the past year. It's easy by calling 1-877-322-8228 or going online at www.annualcreditreport.com. This website is the only one authorized source to get your free annual credit report under federal law. ♦

43 Attend St. Louis Reunion

The "2009 Collins Reunion" attracted 43 retirees, former employees and their spouses to St. Louis Oct. 16-18. Organized by retirees from the former Collins General Aviation Division, it



Bob Hirvela

was open to all interested retirees. Participants came from France, Italy and the United Kingdom, as well as from all over the U. S. The event opened with a reception Friday evening, the 16th, in the host hotel near the airport. Saturday was left open to renew acquaintances, visit St. Louis attractions or watch football games. The Saturday night dinner featured more socializing and talks by former Division V. P. and

General Manager Bob Hirvela and other executives present. The reunion concluded with a farewell breakfast Sunday morning.

Attendees felt the '09 reunion was a success, and they have set their sights on a repeat event in April 2011 in San Antonio, Texas.

Attending the '09 reunion were: Hardin Abrams; Alain and Francoise Avellan; Derek and Judy Berry; Les and Mary Coonan; Gene and Beverly Dawdy; John Dearborn; Joe and Benni Dominguez; Jack and La Vonne Duling; Mr. and Mrs. Karl Ely; Diana Fairchild; David and Nancy Field; Dianne First; Ted Fuhrer; Georges Giuliano; Jim Hando; Bob Hirvela; Tony Huebsch; Art Jackson; Dennis and Carol Kendricks; Jennifer Kokocinski; Terry Lamb; Francoise Loubere; Chuck Nosley; Steven Nossaman; Jim and Diane Ogann; Tom Patterson; Joseph Perino; Gene Schwarting and Mary Naig; Dan Sherwood; Ennio and Anna Trioiani, and Mike Zonnefeld.

For more photos go to: www.genav.blogspot.com and <http://collinsreunion06.shutterfly.com/>

New Medicare Requirements

By John McDonough, SHIIP Counselor

Starting October 2009, new rules went into effect for suppliers of certain Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS). In order to be paid by Medicare, Humana, or Medicare Blue PPO, suppliers must be accredited and have a surety bond. If a supplier doesn't meet these new requirements, you will have to look for another Medicare-approved supplier in order for Medicare (or your advantage plans) to pay for *continued page 4*

From page 3

their equipment and supplies. Continuing with a non-approved supplier means the beneficiary will have to pay the full cost for the supplies.

If you are contacted by a provider who is no longer Medicare approved you need to call 1-800-MEDICARE and a customer service representative can help find a new supplier. Or, visit www.medicare.gov and select "Find Suppliers of Medical Equipment in Your Area." Entering your zip code and equipment used will help identify local approved suppliers. The web site is updated daily to reflect newly accredited suppliers.

The new requirements affect the following types of suppliers: durable medical equipment (such as oxygen equipment and power wheelchairs), medical supplies (such as diabetic supplies), home dialysis supplies and equipment, therapeutic shoes, parenteral/enteral nutrition, transfusion medicine, prosthetic devices, prosthetics and orthotics.

A CMS factsheet can be found at: www.cms.hhs.gov/Partnerships/Downloads/Beneficiary_Fact_New_Requirements_11437.pdf.

Contact your local SHIIP Counselor for help when needed. ♦

Member Profile

Kay Nelson



Kay Nelson

Kay worked in Operations for 37 years in several jobs including assembler, inspector, receiving inspection, mod center and blue cubes.

Upon retirement, Kay took up cycling and rode RAGBRAI the very first year. She is active in the Hawkeye Bike Club, where she volunteers as secretary and bike ride leader. She frequently cycles on the commute from her home in Center Point to the REACT center in Hiawatha to work her shift.

In RCRV she is into many volunteer activities including painting walls (Science Station, Heart of Iowa, REACT Center and Vision in Motion), Festival of Trees for St. Luke's Auxiliary, and computer repair at the REACT center. In the latter job, she is probably one of the few repair operators in the state that work on computer mother boards, mostly changing out bad electrolytic caps. And yes, she religiously wears her anti-static wristband while soldering on computer boards – good habits are hard to break.

Kay is on RCRV's Board of Directors. She enjoys meeting Rockwell Collins friends for breakfast every week, and travels frequently. ♦

RCRV Retiree Insurance Presentations

By John McDonough

Joe Wells, Jim Wolfe and myself provided data of the 2010 Rockwell Collins Retiree Insurance program to about 850 retirees and/or their spouses or caregivers. Our program consisted of 13 presentations with the first being a dry run to our local SHIIP Counselors of which we have about 30 in the immediate area. This was to teach them what was offered and what was changed from 2009.

The presentations were held at the Kirkwood Training, Outreach and Service Center (KTOS) in Marion. Rockwell Collins Management negotiated with both Humana and



Computer mother board repair at the REACT Center

Wellmark representatives such that they paid the bill for the KTOS rental. Our thank you goes to Rockwell Collins as well as Humana and Wellmark. Also, we would like to thank Linda Dearing of Heritage Area Agency on Aging for handling the reservations through Kirkwood and Tonya Arnold of St Luke's for providing copies of the presentation to our retirees. We also had several local SHIIP Counselors supporting our activities at each session by assisting with answering questions at the end of each session.

The first day we had 350 people. The rest of the ten meeting consisted of about 50 people at each session. This year, we provided ten sessions prior to anyone receiving their booklets from Rockwell Collins. The information we provided was accurate. I would like to thank RC for the quality of information that they provided to us.

Next year, our presentations will be given the second week in November (we have already reserved the facility) and will be reduced to eight instead of twelve. We will still have our dry run where we instruct the local SHIIP counselors on the Rockwell Collins programs.

We hope that the retirees who participated left with a better knowledge of the insurance programs offered to them by Rockwell Collins. ♦